

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario



CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Published under authority of the Executive

Currency Date: November 6, 2024

Last Amended: December 17, 2023

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

I. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Business of House conducted according to Standing Orders

1(a) The proceedings in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and in all Committees of the Assembly shall be conducted according to the following Standing Orders.

Purpose

(b) The purpose of these Standing Orders is to ensure that proceedings are conducted in a manner that respects the democratic rights of Members,

- (i)** to submit motions, resolutions and bills for the consideration of the Assembly and its Committees, and to have them determined by democratic vote;
- (ii)** to debate, speak to, and vote on motions, resolutions and bills;
- (iii)** to hold the Government accountable for its policies; and
- (iv)** collectively, to decide matters submitted to the Assembly or a committee.

Contingencies unprovided for

(c) In all contingencies not provided for in the Standing Orders the question shall be decided by the Speaker or Chair and, in making the ruling, the Speaker or Chair shall base the decision on the democratic rights of Members referred to in clause (b). In doing so the Speaker shall have regard to any applicable usages and precedents of the Legislature and Parliamentary tradition.

Participation of Members with disabilities

2 The Speaker may alter the application of any Standing or Special Order or practice of the House, in order to permit the full participation in the proceedings of the House of any Member with a disability.

Definitions

3 For the purpose of these Standing Orders,

“Recognized Party” means a party that has a recognized membership of at least 10 per cent of the total number of seats in the Assembly. For the purpose of this Standing Order, if the party’s percentage of the total number of seats is not a whole number, it shall be rounded to,

- (i)** the next lowest whole number, in the case of a percentage that ends in less than .5; or
- (ii)** the next highest whole number, in the case of a percentage that ends in .5 or more.

“Routine motion” means any motion, including motions under Standing Order 7, made for the purpose of fixing the days or times of the meetings or adjournments of the House, or its committees; establishing or revising the membership of committees, and the meeting schedule thereof; arranging the proceedings of

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

the House; or any other motion relating strictly to the technical procedure of the House or its committees and the management of the business thereof.

“Sessional day” means any day on which the House meets.

“Substantive motion” means a motion that is not incidental or supplementary to any other business of the House, but is a self-contained proposal capable of expressing a decision of the House. Examples of such motions are: the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Budget motion, Want of Confidence motions on allotted days, resolutions and motions for returns or addresses. Such motions require notice and must be submitted to the Speaker in writing when moved, before being put to the House for debate. No motion shall be prefaced by recitals or preambles.

II. PRESIDING OFFICERS

Election of Speaker

4 The election of the Speaker shall be conducted in the following manner:

Nomination of Member

- (a) A member shall propose some other member or themselves to the House to be Speaker and shall move that such member “Do take the chair of the House as Speaker”.

Member informs House if nomination accepted

- (b) A member when nominated and seconded shall inform the House whether they accept the nomination. If they self-nominated or seconded their own nomination they are deemed to have automatically accepted.

Procedure if only one Member nominated

- (c) At the conclusion of a 72-hour period for nominations, the Clerk shall say “I declare the nominations closed”. If only one member is proposed as Speaker, the Clerk shall then, without question put, declare the member so proposed and seconded to be elected as Speaker.

Procedure if more than one member is nominated. Ballot papers provided to members.

- (d) If more than one member is proposed as Speaker, Members present in the Chamber shall be provided with ballot papers by the Clerk on which shall be listed, in alphabetical order, the names of all the members who have been proposed and seconded as Speaker.

Procedure if 2 or more Members nominate

- (e) When 2 or more Members are nominated and seconded as Speaker, the election shall be conducted as follows:

Choice indicated on the ballot.

- (i) Members wishing to indicate their choice for the Office of Speaker shall rank each candidate listed on the ballot in the member’s order of preference by marking the number “1” in the space adjacent to the name of the candidate who is the member’s first

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

preference, the number “2” in the space adjacent to the name of the member’s second preference and so on until the member has completed the ranking of all the candidates for whom the member wishes to vote.

Ballot validity.

- (ii) A ballot on which a member has ranked one or more, but not all, of the candidates is valid only in respect of the candidate or candidates whom the member has ranked.

Ballot submitted to clerk

- (iii) Members shall deposit their completed ballot with the clerk.

Counting of ballot papers and announcement of results and the successful candidate.

- (iv) The Clerk of the House shall, at the conclusion of a 72-hour voting period, count the number of first preferences recorded on the ballots for each candidate, and, if a candidate has received a majority of first preferences, declare such Member to be elected as Speaker and announce the vote totals for all candidates in the count.

When no majority of votes.

- (v) If, after the count referred to in subclause (iv) of this standing order, no candidate has received a majority of first preferences, the Clerk of the House shall
 - (1) eliminate the candidate who received the least number of first preferences from any subsequent counts and, in the event that, at the conclusion of a count, there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates, both or all of whom have the fewest first preferences, eliminate all of the candidates for whom there is an equality of first preferences;
 - (2) in all subsequent counts, treat each second or lower preference as if it were a first preference for the next highest candidate in the order of preference who is not eliminated; and
 - (3) repeat the process of vote counting described in paragraphs (1) and (2) until one candidate has received a majority of first preferences, at which point the Clerk of the House shall provide the member presiding with the name of that candidate, whereupon the member presiding shall announce the name of the new Speaker and announce the vote totals for all candidates in all the counts.
- (f) Every ballot shall be considered in every count, unless it is exhausted in accordance with clause (g) of this standing order.
- (g) A ballot is exhausted when all the candidates on that ballot in respect of which a preference has been made are eliminated.

Subsequent ballots.

- (h) In the event that, after all other candidates have been eliminated, the process of vote counting has resulted in an equality of largest number of first preferences between two or more candidates, members present in the chamber shall be provided by the Clerk with ballot papers,

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

on which shall be listed, in alphabetical order, the names of all candidates who have not been eliminated, and the vote shall proceed in like manner as the first vote.

Election takes precedence over other business

- (i) The election of Speaker shall take precedence over all other business and no motion for adjournment nor any other motion shall be accepted while it is proceeding and the House shall continue to meet if necessary beyond its ordinary time of adjournment, notwithstanding any Standing or Special Order, until a Speaker is declared elected, provided that if the House has continued to meet beyond its ordinary time of adjournment, the Speaker shall thereupon adjourn the House until the next sessional day.

Appointment of Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House

5(a) At the commencement of the first Session of a Parliament, or from time to time as may be required, a Member shall be appointed by the Speaker to be Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House.

Deputy Speaker's duties

- (b) The Deputy Speaker shall, whenever the Speaker is absent or otherwise unable to act, perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker and shall otherwise assist and relieve the Speaker as directed by the Speaker.

Appointment procedure for Presiding Officers

6 The Deputy Speaker shall not be a member of the recognized party that the Speaker is a member of.

III. MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE

Times and days of Reddit Sitings

7(1) During a Parliament, the House shall meet Regularly in "Reddit Sitings" where all items on the order of the proceedings for the day shall be posted at the beginning of the sitting and adjourn at the end of the sitting.

(2) The Assembly shall meet on Mondays, and on Thursdays unless otherwise provided by standing or special order of the House.

Automatic adjournment

(3) At 6:00 p.m. of the third day after any reddit sitting meets, the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting.

Times and days of live sittings.

(4)(a) Upon the Agreement of the Clerk, a Presiding Officer, and the House Leaders of all recognized parties on a time, the House may meet for "Live Sitings" using a text or voice channel on Discord.

- (b) for greater clarity, a "Live Sitting" and a "Reddit Sitting" may occur concurrently.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

House not to Meet

(5) The House shall not meet during the following days,

- (a)** the day on which there is a general election of Members to serve in the Canadian House of Commons,
- (b)** New Year's Day,
- (c)** Family Day,
- (d)** Good Friday,
- (e)** Easter Monday,
- (f)** Victoria Day,
- (g)** Canada Day,
- (h)** the day fixed for a civic holiday in August,
- (i)** Labour Day,
- (j)** Thanksgiving Day,
- (k)** Remembrance Day,
- (l)** Christmas Day and
- (m)** Boxing Day.

If the time between the meeting and automatic adjournment of a meeting sitting on a preceding day under standing order includes any of the aforementioned days not to sit, the House shall not meet that preceding day.

Clerk to publish a calendar

(6) As soon as possible after the Opening of a Parliament, the Clerk of the House shall publish a calendar which shows the days on which the House shall meet, according to the Standing Orders.

Date to meet after recess

8 Before a Session is prorogued, the Government House Leader shall announce the approximate date upon which the Assembly will be reconvened.

Meeting schedule

9(1) The proceedings Introduction of Bills and Reports by Committees shall be held on meeting at any time there are items of business to conduct within them.

(2) The meeting schedule for the House when it is in session shall be:

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

DAY	PROCEEDING
Monday Reddit Sitting	Question Period Deferred Votes Orders of the Day Private Members' Public Business
Thursday Reddit Sitting	Members' Statements and Statements by the Ministry Deferred Votes Orders of the Day Private Members' Public Business Opposition Day Motion
Live Sitting	Members' Statements Question Period Adjournment

Bells summoning Members for live sitting

10 The bells shall be rung for 5 minutes before the time appointed for the meeting of the House for a live sitting to summon the Members, and otherwise at the discretion of the Speaker.

Live sitting adjournment

11(1) At the points of a live sitting when the House arrives at a recess or adjournment, as set out in Standing Order 9(2), such recess or adjournment shall, without motion, be ordered from the chair.

Transition between proceedings during live sitting

(2) At the points of a live sitting when the House arrives at a transition from one proceeding to another, as set out in Standing Order 9(2), the Speaker shall interrupt and call the next proceeding.

Quorum

12(1) The presence of at least one-third of the members of the House, including the Speaker, is necessary to constitute a meeting of the House for the exercise of its powers.

Adjournment for lack of quorum

(2) If at any time during a live sitting the Speaker's attention is directed to the apparent lack of a quorum, the Speaker shall, upon determining that a quorum is not present, cause the bells to be rung until a quorum is present and, in any case, for no longer than 10 minutes. If a quorum is not present after the expiration of 10 minutes, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put until the next sessional day. The matter under consideration prior to the adjournment is deemed to be adjourned to a future sessional day.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Same

(3) During a live sitting when the House is meeting as a committee, if the Chair's attention is directed to the apparent lack of a quorum, the Chair shall proceed as provided in clause (2); however, if after making a count, there is still not a quorum, the Chair shall report the matter to the Speaker, who shall repeat the same procedure. If on the Speaker's count a quorum is present, the House shall again resolve itself into a committee, otherwise the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sessional day.

Same

(4) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the House for want of a quorum, the names of the Members then present shall be recorded.

IV. ORDER AND DECORUM AND CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

Decisions of the House

13 Questions arising in the Legislative Assembly shall be decided by a Majority of Voices, and the Speaker shall in all Cases have a Vote, and when the Voices are equal the Decision shall be deemed to be in the Negative.

Speaker to preserve order

14(1) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide questions of privilege and points of order. In making a decision on a question of privilege or point of order or explaining a practice, the Speaker may state the applicable Standing Order or authority.

No debate on or appeal from decision of Speaker

(2) No debate shall be permitted on any such decision, and no such decision shall be subject to an appeal to the House.

Discussion

(3) The Speaker may rule on a point of privilege or point of order when it is raised without allowing any discussion apart from the Member raising the point.

Same

(4) A Member raising a point of order or point of privilege, and any Member permitted by the Speaker to speak to it, must put the point tersely and speak only to the point raised. A point of order or privilege is heard in silence by the House.

No motion may reflect on decision of Speaker

(5) No motion may be moved which reflects on any such decision by the Speaker.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Speaker to disallow out of order motions

15 Whenever the Speaker is of the opinion that a motion offered to the House is contrary to the rules and privileges of Parliament, the Speaker shall rule it out of order, and may quote the rule or authority applicable.

Naming a Member

16(1) If a Member on being called to order for an offence against any Standing Order persists in the offence, the Speaker may direct the Member to discontinue, and if such Member refuses to comply, the Speaker shall name the Member to the House.

Suspension after naming

(2) When a Member is named by the Speaker, if the offence is a minor one, the Speaker may order the Member to withdraw for the balance of the sessional day; but if the matter appears to the Speaker to be of a more serious nature, the Speaker shall put the question on the motion being made, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, "that such Member be suspended from the service of the House", such suspension being for any time stated in the motion not exceeding 8 sessional days.

Adjournment for disorder

17 In the case of grave disorder in the House, the Speaker or the Chair may adjourn the House or a committee without motion, or suspend any meeting for a time to be named by him or her.

Expulsion of strangers for misbehaviour

18 Any stranger admitted to any part of the House who misconducts himself or herself, or does not withdraw when strangers are directed to withdraw, while the House or a Committee of the Whole House is meeting, may be expelled from the precincts of the House.

Strangers excluded on motion

19 All strangers may be excluded from the House or any committee thereof on a motion properly moved and adopted by the House or the Committee, as the case may be.

Strangers participating during meetings

20 Strangers may participate in debate on questions before the house, participate in question period, and may make a members' statement during Members' Statements and Statements by the Ministry.

Members not to interrupt Speaker

21(1) Members shall remain in their places and refrain from interrupting the Speaker when he or she has risen to speak, make a ruling, or put a question to the House.

Member not to interrupt other Member

(2) When a Member is speaking, no other Member shall interrupt such Member, except on a question of order.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Electronic devices

22 During live sittings occurring in voice channels, the use of devices is permitted in the Chamber provided they are operated silently, do not impair decorum and are not used as a prop.

V. PRIVILEGE

Privileges

23(1) Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the House collectively and by the Members of the House individually conferred by the Legislative Assembly Act and other statutes, or by practice, precedent, usage and custom.

Taken up immediately

(2) Once the Speaker finds that a prima facie case of privilege exists, it shall be taken into consideration immediately.

Notice to Speaker

(3) Any Member proposing to raise a point of privilege, other than one arising out of proceedings in the Chamber during the course of a live sitting, shall give to the Speaker a written statement of the point at least 1 hour prior to raising the question in the House.

Discussion

(4) The Speaker may rule that a prima facie case of privilege does not exist on the basis of the written statement referred to in clause (3) and, despite Standing Order 14(3), may do so without allowing discussion from any Member.

VI. RULES OF DEBATE

Rising to speak in English or French

24(1) Every Member desiring to speak must rise in their place and address the Speaker, in either English or French.

Order of speaking

(2) During a Live Sitting, when 2 or more Members rise to speak, the Speaker shall call upon the Member who, in the Speaker's opinion, rose first in his or her place.

Members called to order

(3) A Member called to order shall sit down, but may afterwards explain. The Speaker shall decide on the case, without debate, and the decision of the Speaker shall be final.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Recognition of independent Member

(4) Subject to the Standing Orders and any other Order of the House, nothing prevents the Speaker or Chair of the Committee of the Whole House from recognizing an independent Member to speak.

Matters out of order in debate

25 In debate, a Member shall be called to order by the Speaker if they:

Member speaks twice to question

- (a) Speak twice to a question, except in explanation of a material part of his or her speech in which they may have been misunderstood, in which case the Member may not introduce a new matter.

Directs speech to other matters

- (b) Directs his or her speech to matters other than,
 - (i) the question under discussion; or
 - (ii) a motion or amendment he or she intends to move; or
 - (iii) a point of order.

Repetition

- (c) Persists in needless repetition or raises matters that have been decided during the current Session.

Reading from Hansard

- (d) In the opinion of the Speaker, refers at length to debates of the current Session, or reads unnecessarily from verbatim reports of the legislative debates or any other document.

Anticipation

- (e) Anticipates any matter already on Notice for consideration.

Reflects on previous vote

- (f) Reflects upon any previous vote of the House unless it is the Member's intention to move that it be rescinded.

Allegations against Member

- (g) Makes allegations against another Member.

Imputes false or unavowed motive

- (h) Imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Deliberate falsehood

- (i) Charges another Member with uttering a deliberate falsehood.

Abusive or insulting language

- (j) Uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder.

Disrespect to Royal Family, etc.

- (k) Speaks disrespectfully of Her Majesty or any of the Royal Family, or the Governor General, or the Administrator of Canada, or the Lieutenant Governor, or the Administrator of the Province.

Offensive matter

- (l) Introduces any matter in debate that in the opinion of the Speaker offends the practices and precedents of the House.

5-minute time limit

26 Except where otherwise expressly provided by the Standing Orders, or by unanimous consent, no Member shall speak in the House during a live sitting for more than 5 minutes.

Member with pecuniary interest may not vote

27 No Member is entitled to vote upon any question in which they have a direct pecuniary interest, and the vote of any Member who has such an interest shall be disallowed.

VII. DIVISIONS

Deferral of division

28(1) At the automatic adjournment of a sitting, any question up for debate shall be deemed automatically to be deferred to the next instance of the proceeding "Deferred Votes", at which time the bells shall be rung.

No further debate

(2) When Members have been called in for a division, there shall be no further debate.

Votes recorded

(3) When the Members have been called in, the Speaker shall put the question and, subject to Standing Order 13, every Member present at that time who wishes to vote shall record their vote.

Abstentions

(4) Members are not compelled to vote and those who wish to abstain when asked to rise may record their vote as an abstention.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Division bells

(5) The division bells shall be for the duration of the sitting.

Divisions in Committee of the Whole House

29 On division in Committee of the Whole House, Standing Order 28 applies.

VIII. DAILY ROUTINE

Order of Daily Routine

30 The proceedings in the Routine shall be conducted at the times and in the order set out in Standing Order 9(2).

Members' Statements

Length of Statements

31(1) A Member, other than a Leader of a recognized party in the House or a Minister of the Crown, may be recognized to make a statement for not more than 1½ minutes in a live voice sitting, or 250 words in a Reddit sitting or live text sitting.

Number of statements

(2) During a Live Sitting, up to 9 Members of recognized parties in the House may make a statement during the period for "Members' Statements" and the statements shall be allocated in proportion to the number of private Members of each of the recognized parties in the House.

Independent Member

(3) During a Live Sitting, the Speaker has the discretion to permit an independent Member to make a statement. In exercising his or her discretion, the Speaker shall have regard to the opportunities that Members of recognized parties have to make such statements. An independent Member shall notify the Speaker of his or her intention to make a statement.

Question Period

32(a) Questions on matters of urgent public importance may be addressed to the Ministers of the Crown but the Speaker shall disallow any question which they do not consider urgent or of public importance. If in the opinion of the Minister or the Speaker the question requires a lengthy answer, either the Minister or the Speaker may require it to be placed as a written enquiry of the Ministry. The Minister may take an oral question as notice to be answered orally on a future sessional day but where any reserved answer requires a lengthy statement, the statement shall be given as a response on the next reddit sitting Question Period.

Live Question Period

(b) During a Live Sitting, Question Period shall be limited to 60 minutes, including supplementary questions.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Supplementary questions

- (c) In the discretion of the Speaker, a reasonable number of supplementary questions arising out of the Minister's reply to an oral question may be asked by any Members.

No arguments or opinions

- (d) In putting an oral question, no argument or opinion is to be offered nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question, the Member is not to debate the matter to which it refers.

Responses to questions

- (e) Any Member of the Executive Council may respond to any question during Question Period and may, in their discretion, decline to answer any question.

May not appeal rulings

33 The Speaker's rulings relating to oral questions are not debatable or subject to appeal.

Deferred Votes

34 Any divisions deferred under the Standing Orders shall be disposed of during the proceeding "Deferred Votes" and the bells shall be rung for each division.

Introduction of bills

Motion for

35(a) Every bill shall be introduced upon a motion for leave for introduction and First Reading, specifying the title of the Bill.

No amendment or debate on introduction

- (b) The motion for introduction and First Reading shall be deemed carried, without debate, amendment or question put, the mover may make a brief explanation of its purposes.

Form

- (c) No bill may be introduced in blank or imperfect form.

Ministerial statements

Subject

36(a) A Minister of the Crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Background information

- (b) As part of any policy statement if necessary the Minister may table a compendium of background information.

Opposition comments

- (c) Following a ministerial statement one representative of each of the recognized Opposition parties in the House may comment.

IX. SPECIAL DEBATES

Throne debate

12 hours allotted

37(a) There shall be 1 sitting allotted to the debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne and any amendments thereto.

Debate to be completed before Budget

- (b) The debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne shall be completed before the presentation of the Budget.

Opposition Days

38(a) Thursday Reddit sittings shall be known as Opposition Days.

Limits

- (b) Opposition Day debates:
 - (i) shall be limited to 1 per Opposition Day; and
 - (ii) shall be distributed among the recognized Opposition parties in proportion to their membership in the House.

Format of Opposition Day motions

- (c) Opposition Day motions:
 - (i) Shall contain the text of a non-amendable motion to be debated;
 - (ii) shall indicate the Minister of the Crown to whom it is addressed;
 - (iii) shall not be a motion for Second or Third Reading of a bill;
 - (iv) shall not be considered on any day on which the Minister of Finance has given notice of his or her intention to present the Budget;

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

If more than one notice of an Opposition Day Motion is received

- (d) If more than one notice of an Opposition Day Motion is filed, the Speaker shall select which one will be considered.

Take-note debate

- 39(a)** Any Member may place a substantive motion on Notice that the house “Take-Note” of an issue.

Question to not be put

- (b) At the automatic adjournment of a sitting, any question to Take-Note of an issue up for debate shall not be deferred and shall be dropped.

X. MOTIONS

Motion for closure

40 A motion for closure, which may be moved without notice on any amendable motion, until it is decided shall preclude all amendment of the main question, and shall be in the following words: “That this question be now put”. Unless it appears to the Speaker that such a motion is an abuse of the Standing Orders of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question shall be put deferred and the debate on the main question completed. The Closure motion shall be decided without amendment or debate. If a motion for closure is resolved in the affirmative, the original question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

Motions to be Seconded

41 All motions shall be in writing, and seconded, before the question thereon is proposed from the chair.

May not renew motion, etc., once decided

42 No motion, or amendment, the subject-matter of which has been decided upon, can be again proposed during the same Session.

Withdrawal

43 A Member who has given notice of or moved a motion may withdraw the same.

XI. NOTICE

Method of giving notice

44 All notices required by the Standing Orders of the House or otherwise shall be submitted to the table via an electronic method determined by the clerk. Notices of motion shall be distributed by the Clerk to the House Leaders of recognized parties in the Legislature at the time of tabling.

XII. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Order of business

45 Except as otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, government business will be taken up in the discretion of the Government House Leader.

Order of business

46 One item of government business shall be considered in each Reddit sitting at the times set out in standing order 9(2).

Business for ensuing week

47 Before the adjournment of the House on each Thursday Reddit Sitting during the Session, the Government House Leader shall announce the business for the following week.

XIII. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Money bills, etc., require message from Lieutenant Governor

48 Any bill, resolution, motion or address, the passage of which would impose a tax or specifically direct the allocation of public funds, shall not be passed by the House unless recommended by a message from the Lieutenant Governor, and shall be proposed only by a Minister of the Crown.

Budget motion and presentation

49(a) The Budget motion, upon proper notice, shall be moved by the Minister of Finance following the completion of the debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, and amendments, and in so doing the Minister of Finance shall present the Budget and Budget papers.

Time for vote

- (c) There shall be one sitting allotted to the debate on the Budget motion and any amendments thereto.

Text of Budget Motion

- (d) The Budget motion shall be in the following words: "That this House approves in general the Budgetary Policy of the Government"

XIV. PUBLIC BILLS

Second or Third Reading Motions Non-Amendable

50 No notice is required for non-amendable motions for Second or Third Reading of Bills, such motions being ancillary.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Printed before Second Reading

51 The Order of the Day for Second Reading of a bill shall not be called until the Bill has been printed.

Amendment Requests

52(a) During debate on a motion for second reading, any member may give notice of an intention to move amendments,

Ordered for Third Reading if no Amendments Requested

(b) when a bill has received Second Reading it may, if no member gave notice of an intention to move amendments under paragraph (a), be ordered for Third Reading.

Committal

(c) If any member has given notice of an intention to move amendments, the Bill will be referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Amendments in Committee

53(a) When the Bill is to being considered in committee of the whole house, amendments may be moved by members.

Chair's discretion respecting multiple amendments

(b) The Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, may take such reasonable steps as they consider necessary to facilitate the Committee's consideration and disposition of multiple amendments.

One sitting for moving amendments

(c) There shall be one sitting for the Proposing of amendments, as soon as they are moved they are deemed a question before the committee of the whole house up for debate, at the conclusion of the sitting.any amendment up for debate shall be deemed automatically to be deferred to the next instance of the proceeding "Deferred Votes", at which time the bells shall be rung.

Bills reported by Committees

54(a) Bills reported from the Committee of the Whole House shall stand ordered for Third Reading.

Amended bill reprinted

(b) When a bill has been amended in Committee of the Whole House it shall be reprinted as the Clerk of the House directs, amendments being indicated, and shall not be further proceeded with until it has been reprinted.

CMHoC Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Three readings for all bills

Readings certified by Clerk

55 No bill shall pass unless it receives three readings, and the date of each reading shall be certified on the Bill by the Clerk of the House.

XV. PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Time for

Only 1 item per day

Time allotment for items in Private Members' Public Business debate

56(a) 1 item of Private Members' Public Business shall be considered at the times as set out in Standing Order 9(2),

Ballot

- (b) The order for consideration of the items of business shall be determined by a ballot conducted by the Clerk of the House prior to or at the commencement of each Session. All private Members, including independent Members, shall have their names entered for the draw, and names shall be drawn from a single box.

Exchanging places in the Order of Precedence

- (c) Subject to clause (e), Members may exchange places in the Order of Precedence on the ballot list by providing to the Clerk of the House written notice of their arrangement to this effect, such written notice to be duly signed by the affected Members and to be provided by 6:00 p.m. 3 days prior to the earlier of the two dates on the Order of Precedence determined in clause (b).

May be Called Under Government Orders

- (d) Private Members' Public Bills may be called by the Government House Leader in the same manner as Government Orders.

Notice

- (e) To be considered in Private Members' time, the Order for Second Reading, Order for Third Reading, or notice of a motion, must be designated on Notice 3 days in advance of the date that is determined by the ballot conducted under clause (b). In the event that a Member fails to designate business for consideration by this deadline, the first eligible public bill on Notice standing in that Member's name shall be designated for consideration. Should that Member have no public bills standing in their name then the first eligible motion to be on Notice standing in that Member's name shall be designated for consideration. Should that Member have no business standing in their name on notice by this deadline, the Member shall lose their place in the Order of Precedence and the House shall not conduct a Private Members' Public Business proceeding on that date.

XVI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

House in committee

57(a) When an Order of the Day is read for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House, the Speaker shall leave the chair without a question put, and the House shall thereupon resolve itself into a committee.

Mace

(b) When the Speaker has left the chair, the Mace shall be placed under the Table and the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House shall take the chair of the Committee at the Table.

Standing Orders observed

58 The Standing Orders of the House shall be observed in Committee of the Whole House so far as may be applicable.

Chair maintains order

Appeal to Speaker

59(a) The Chair shall maintain order in the Committee of the Whole House and decide all questions of order subject to an appeal by any Member to the Speaker. No debate shall be permitted on any decision of the Chair.

Procedure

Speaker confirms or varies decision

(b) If an appeal of a decision of the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House is made to the Speaker, the Chair shall rise and report immediately thereon to the Speaker without any question being put to the Committee. On receiving a report from the Chair and reviewing the proceedings, the Speaker shall confirm or vary any decision of the Chair.

Disorder reported to House

(c) Disorder in a Committee of the Whole House can only be censured by the House on receiving a report from the Committee.

Amendments in Committee of the Whole House

60 It shall be an instruction to the Committee of the Whole House to which bills may be committed that it has the power to make such amendments therein as it thinks fit, if they are relevant to the subject-matter of the Bill, but if any such amendments are not within the title of the Bill it shall amend the title accordingly and shall report the Bill to the House.

XVII. OFFICERS AND SERVANTS OF THE HOUSE

Duties of Clerk

61 The Clerk of the House shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the House and of legislation, under the direction of the Speaker. The Clerk shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all the papers and records of the House, and shall have direction and control of all the officers and Clerks of the House subject to such orders as they may from time to time receive from the Speaker or the House.

Table Officers

62(a) The Table Officers shall assist the Clerk of the House in their duties at the Table and elsewhere as may be directed by the Clerk.

Absence of Clerk

- (b) In the absence of the Clerk of the House, the Table Officers shall, ex officio, perform the duties of the Clerk.

Legislative Duties of the Clerk

63 The Clerk shall have the following Legislative Duties,

- (a) prepare and advise upon such legislation as may be required by the Executive Council or any member thereof and assist and advise Members in all matters respecting the drafting of bills;
- (b) revise, print and put marginal notes on all Public and generally be responsible for the correctness of all such bills in their various stages;
- (c) be present when required on the floor of the House when a bill is in Committee of the Whole House and revise every such bill before the Third Reading; and
- (d) see to the preparation, printing and indexing of the annual statutes.

Officers complete work of Session

64 It is the duty of the permanent officers of the House to complete the work remaining at the close of the Session.

XXIV. OTHER

Government House Leader and designates

65 References in these Standing Orders to the Government House Leader shall be deemed also to refer to a Minister of the Crown, or the Deputy Government House Leader, acting in place of the Government House Leader.